

Amendment

In the Claims

Claims 1-35 (cancelled)

36. (currently amended) A seed, for implantation into a subject, wherein the seed is a combination product comprising

- a) a biocompatible carrier,
- b) one or more therapeutic components,
- c) an imaging, radiopaque, or other diagnostic marker, and
- d) one or more ~~means~~ protrusions to maintain location or orientation of the seed ~~upon implantation~~ selected from the group consisting of one or more biodegradable structures effective to prevent migration ~~upon implantation~~ of the seed ~~into a target in~~ tissue, one or more biodegradable structures effective to maintain orientation in tissue ~~upon implantation~~, and one or more compliant setal structures which impart adhesive properties ~~upon implantation into a target tissue~~,

wherein the seed has a size and shape suitable for passing through the bore of a needle or catheter having an interior diameter of less than about 2.7 mm (10 gauge).

37. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein the seed is shaped into a cylinder or rod having a diameter of between about 0.8 to 3 mm and a length of up to 40 mm.

38. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein the biodegradable structures are comprised of polymeric substances.

39. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein the biodegradable structures are comprised of non-polymeric or inorganic substances.

40. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein more than one seed is formed as a continuous chain or array of seeds.

41. (previously presented) The seed of claim 40 wherein the chain or continuous array includes spacer material .

42. (previously presented) The seed of claim 40 wherein one or more seeds are elongated into strands to form a continuous chain or array of seeds.

43. (previously presented) The seed of claim 41 wherein the seeds and spacers in the chain or continuous array are indistinguishably linked.

44. (previously presented) The seed of claim 41 wherein the color, texture, diameter, hardness, or shape of the spacers is used for identification and demarcation.

45. (previously presented) The seed of claim 40 wherein the chain or continuous array comprises indiscrete seeds, is flaccid, rigid, flexible, spring-shaped, coiled, spiral-shaped, springy, bent, latticed, knotted, interconnected, linked, or fused.

46. (previously presented) The seed of claim 41 wherein spacers are located at varying distances from one another, separated by one, two, three, four, five or more seeds.

47. (currently amended) The seed of claim 36 wherein the ~~means~~ protrusions to maintain location or orientation is selected from the group consisting of a ridge, bump, rib, related structure, grapple shaped anchor, pop-up wing, cross-style stabilizer, bristle-like, ring-shaped, and alternative shaped structures.

48. (currently amended) The seed of claim 36 wherein the ~~means~~ protrusions to maintain location or orientation comprises a smart polymer or other substrate to achieve configuration modification ~~at implantation~~.

49. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein the biocompatible carrier is elastic .

50. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein one or more of the therapeutic components is radioactive.

51. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein one or more of the therapeutic components is non-radioactive.

52. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein the imaging, radiopaque, or diagnostic marker is the biocompatible carrier.

53. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 further comprising a means of tracing the radioactive contents comprising the radioactive component.

54. (previously presented) The seed of claim 53 wherein the tracer is fluorescent, luminescent, colored, pigmented, dyed, tagged, or quantum dots.

55. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein one or more of the components comprises a biodegradable magnetic polymer suitable for heating in a magnetic field.